



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
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NGB-ARM

31 October 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) Policy, also known as Chapter 1607

1. References:

- a. Section 527 of Subtitle C-Reserve Component Personnel Matters, of Title V of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2005 (NDAA 05) (Public Law (P.L.) 108-375 Authorizes the Reserve Educational Assistance Program Chapter 1607 of Title 10.
- b. Department of Defense (DoD) Directive-Type Memorandum: New Reporting Requirements for Chapter 1607, October 2005.
- c. Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 7730.54, subject: Reserve Components Common Personnel Data System (RCCPDS), 15 March 1999.
- d. Education and Incentives Operation Message (EIOM) 05-12: Chapter 1607 (New Reserve Component Education Assistance Bill), 8 November 2004.
- e. EIOM 05-23: Inquiries reference by the Ronald Reagan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA 05), 9 December 2004.
- f. EIOM 05-81: Chapter 1607 – Reserve Educational Assistance Program, 28 July 2005.

2. Purpose. This memorandum prescribes **preliminary** policy and procedures to administer the REAP for the period beginning the date of this policy until sooner rescinded or superseded. This policy provides information to assist ARNG State Education Service Offices in providing information to their Soldiers until the DoD publishes implementation guidance.

3. Overview: REAP is an education assistance program established on 28 October 2004 in recognition of Reserve Component (RC) members' sacrifices in answering the call to duty. Soldiers that served on or after 11 September 2001 for 90 consecutive days or more may be eligible to receive an increased GI Bill Benefit. The program is similar to the Reserve GI Bill, in that the military services determine initial eligibility, notifies Soldier, and funds the program while the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) administers payments to the Soldier. GI Bill programs may affect eligibility and amount of total benefit; thus, the ARNG will administer this program in coordination with the other GI Bill Programs. **Currently, DoD and DVA are coordinating for implementation at a later date. DVA plans to start making payments in the fall of 2005. NGB will provide more information upon receipt of DoD Implementing Instructions.**

4. Eligibility: On or after 11 September 2001, RC members may receive educational assistance under the REAP provided:

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a. Service member mobilized for 90 days or more in support of a contingency operation defined in section 10 USC 101(a) (13).

b. Service member performed full time National Guard duty under 32 USC 502(f) for 90 consecutive days or more in response to a Presidential or Secretary of Defense declaration of a national emergency supported by Federal funds.

c. Service member ordered to active service in either a or b above and released before completing 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

d. Soldiers may receive up to 36 months in any one DVA educational assistance program, and a maximum of 48 months combined benefits. DVA educational assistance programs include the following:

(1) Reserve GI Bill (a.k.a. Chapter 1606).

(2) Active Duty GI Bill (a.k.a. Chapter 30).

(3) Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) (a.k.a. Chapter 32).

(4) Vietnam Era GI Bill (a.k.a. Chapter 34).

(5) Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) (a.k.a. Chapter 35).

5. Enrollment. To receive benefits, Soldiers should work with state Education Services Officers (ESO) to find an approved program. To enroll, Soldiers will complete an Application for Benefits (VA Form 22-1990) with their school. Soldiers need to verify their enrollment in order to receive payment at the end of each month they are in school. See Appendix A for additional information.

6. Duration of Entitlement:

a. ARNG Status. Soldier must remain in an active participating status in the Reserve Component.

b. Disabled Members. Soldiers separated because of a disability, not by willful misconduct, on or after the date of entitlement will have 10 years from the date of entitlement.

7. Termination of service members' entitlement to REAP occurs upon any of the following conditions:

a. Discharged from the Reserve Components. Termination may happen if the Soldier leaves active participant status with any reserve component.

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b. Service members elects a ROTC scholarship (active duty or Dedicated Guard 10 USC 2107) after becoming eligible for REAP benefits. Termination does not apply to soldiers receiving ROTC scholarship prior to their gaining eligibility under REAP.

8. Duplication of Benefits: State GI Bill managers are responsible to ensure applicants are not receiving duplication of federal funds in contradiction of USC and NGB guidance. Service members may use REAP in addition to other funding sources (i.e. Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), ARNG GI Bill Kicker program, loan programs, state-funded programs, etc) to fund their educational expenses:

a. State-funded programs have no relevance on GI Bill Programs and should not be a factor in determining federal funding, pending any State laws or directives. Soldiers may simultaneously use State-funded programs and federal benefits, unless respective State law directs otherwise.

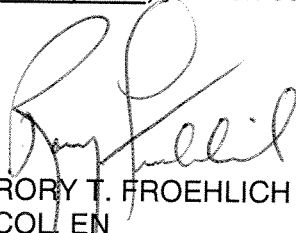
b. Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is an education incentive, which has no relevance on receiving funds from the ARNG GI Bill Kicker or other GI Bill Programs. Service members are eligible to receive this incentive, providing they meet the criteria in the current fiscal year Selected Reserve Incentive Program Policy Guidance.

c. Soldiers are eligible to receive REAP and their ARNG GI Bill Kicker provided they remain eligible for the kicker entitlement based on the ARNG GI Bill Kicker Policy.

b. Soldiers are eligible to receive REAP and ARNG FTA.

9. Authorized Monthly Benefit Rates. Refer to the DVA educational website for information on rates at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

10. Point of contact (POC) for this policy is the ARNG GI Bill Support Team at 1-866-628-5999 or email esc@ngpec.org. POC for in-processing and facilitating eligibility/status changes is respective state GI Bill Manager at www.virtualarmory.com, click on education then ARNG Points of Contacts.



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DISTRIBUTION:

Each State MILPO, ESO, RRM, GI Bill Manager

APPENDIX A HOW TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS

DVA Education Assistance can be used for the following programs:

The DVA Education Assistance Programs provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for:

College, Business
Technical or Vocational Courses
Correspondence Courses
Apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training (OJT)
Flight Training

To receive the REAP benefit, Soldiers must make sure their course is approved to receive DVA Benefits, complete an application for benefits, and verify their enrollment each month. The following steps will assist the Soldier in receive their benefits.

STEP 1

1. Find out if the program is approved for VA benefits.

a. Check with the school's Financial Aid Office or Admissions/Registrars Office or training facility employment office.

b. Check with the State GI Bill Manager.

c. Check with the GI Bill Support Team.

d. Check with DVA.

2. If the program has been approved for DVA education assistance, check with the school or training office to determine who certifies enrollments for DVA benefits. This may be one of the following offices:

a. Financial Aid

b. Registrar

c. Admissions

d. Other

3. For Apprenticeship/On-The-Job (OJT) Training, this individual may be in the Training, Finance, or Personnel Office.

NOTE: The certifying official is not an employee of DVA.

STEP 2

1. Complete the Application for Benefits (VA Form 22-1990)

a. On-line Application.

(1) Go to the GI Bill web site <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> and click on Electronic Application.

(2) Complete the form with and click submit to send it to the Regional Processing Office (RPO).

NOTE: Annotate on the application that you are electing "REAP-CHAPTER 1607 BENEFITS."

b. Printed Form.

(1) Go to the GI Bill web site and click on Education Forms.

(2) Click on the VA Form 22-1990 and print a copy to complete.

NOTE: Annotate on the application that you are electing "REAP-CHAPTER 1607 BENEFITS."

2. Completed Application to the appropriate DVA office.

a. Application should be taken to the VA Certifying Official (VACO) at the school.

b. If there is no one at school, the paperwork should be sent directly to DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO).

c. Soldiers may also pick up the application at the school or training facility.

STEP 3

1. School or Training Office certifies enrollment to DVA.

a. School will complete a Certification of Enrollment VA Form 22-1999.

b. Certification Form will be sent to DVA for certifying Soldiers enrollment and eligibility for benefits.

2. Soldier will verify enrollment based on Schools certification.

a. Soldier will call into the DVA Education Verification line the last day of the month (or anytime after) to have payments released. This number is: 877-823-2378.

b. Soldiers may verify their enrollment online Web Automated Verification Enrollment on the VA education benefits. This site is: <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/default.cfm/>.

NOTE: DVA plays to pay this benefit starting Fall 2005. Additional information will be provided to the state GI Bill Managers once a final date is determined.

APPENDIX B RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

State GI Bill Managers functions:

- Enter recommended changes into iMARC GI Bill Programs for Soldiers. Use DMDC, PERMS, RPAM, and other programs as necessary to enter valid recommended changes
- Ensure entries of Civilian Education level, IADT Graduation date and 6-year contract date are updated SIDPERS for NPS and Civilian Education level for PS
- Distribute Reserve GI Bill-Ch 1606 NOBE
- Issue Kicker control number and validate contract, update amounts
- Distribute Notification for REAP-Ch 1607 for eligible members (coming soon)
- Request suspension and terminations for Chapter 1606, 1607 and Kicker from GI Bill Support Team and notify Soldier of their status changes
- Assist GI Bill Support Team with in-processing AGR and mobilized Soldiers for Active Duty GI Bill

GI Bill Support Team functions:

- Policy and approval authority for all GI Bill programs
- Training GI Bill Managers
- State Visitation, Conferences, Workshops, Training
- DVA Customer Service for all ARNG GI Bill Programs (i.e. eligibility verification)
- Customer Services to States, Units
- Quality control on Reserve GI Bill-CH 1606, REAP-CH 1607, and ARNG GI Bill Kicker
- Assist states with suspensions/terminations as needed for Reserve GI Bill-CH 1606, REAP-CH 1607, and ARNG GI Bill Kicker
- Initiate recoup process/inquires/data on Reserve GI Bill-CH 1606, REAP-CH 1607, and ARNG GI Bill Kicker
- In-Process all AGR and Mobilized Soldiers for Active Duty GI Bill-CH 30 benefit (coming soon)

NGB functions

- Assist in Training, Site visitations
- Oversight of Support team
- Liaison to DOD and HQDA
- Veterans Affairs point of contact for policy, workgroup and DODI
- Recoup policy/liaison
- DMDC Site Administer
- In-process Title-10 AGR for Active Duty GI Bill-CH 30 at NGB